Child Protection Sub-Working Group

12.09.2019 Minutes of Meeting

Date:	Thursday, 12th September 2019 at 09.30 a.m., Conference Room 2	
Participants:	MoL, EKKA, Ombudsperson for Children's Rights, Athens Juvenile Probation Office, UNHCR CO, UNHCR FUA, UNICEF, IOM, ICRC, NCR, The Home Project, European Expression, The Smile of the Child, Velos Youth, Defence for Children Greece, Babel DC, IRC, TdH Hellas, Faros, Metadrasi, Safe passage, Praksis, MSF, HRC, Humanity Crew	
Chair:	**UNHCR: Theodora D. Tsovili (tsovili@unhcr.org)**	
Agenda	▪ CP situation on the islands – by Metadrasi, UNHCR CO, Sub office Lesvos, Field office Samos (the participation of the field offices will be possible only if they can be available due to the heavy workload) ▪ Guardianship - by MoL & Metadrasi ▪ AMIFunding, meeting of MoL with the NGOs and AMIF RA – by MoL ▪ Dubs' project & beyond – by UNHCR ▪ Follow up on the Missing children: schedule the working group/ task force meeting on Missing Children as agreed in the last CPsWG ▪ AOB	
• **CP situation on the islands – by Metadrasi, UNHCR CO, Sub office Lesvos, Field office Samos**	**Update on Lesvos by UNHCR Sub Office** In brief, the population of the refugee children on Lesvos has reached unprecedented levels with many on going challenges. In particular, on Lesvos the evening of 24th August was marked by the tragic death of a 15-year-old unaccompanied Afghan boy during a fight that broke out among Afghan children in Moria's Safe Area. Police intervened and managed to stop it, however three Afghan children had already been injured by a sharp object with one of them fatally. The two siblings of the deceased child were moved out of Moria and all procedures took place so that the two children can be transferred to a shelter to mainland as soon as possible. The two children alleged perpetrators were taken in detention pending trial and the completion of the penal procedures. More than 5000 children are currently in Moria RIC and the olive grove area exposed to further risk. Among these, more than 1000 children are unaccompanied and stay in different locations: at the Section B, in the Safe area or in the Rub Hall in the registration area among adults. 17% of the new arrivals in Moria are unaccompanied or separated	**Action Points:** **n/a**

	children. Since the capacity of the camp has exceeded its maximum unaccompanied children are residing also in the wider area of the RIC in Moria at the periphery of it n the olive grove. Due to the long peeriods of waiting, during the first half of September, two demestrations took place in Moria by the UAC with the request to be transferred to shelters. UNHCR has observed the increase of drug dealing and the use of drugs among the UASC population in Moria. In addition, the cease of the operation of OEDY led to further challenges as no vulnerability assessment is taking place, no social history reports are drafted and no family link assessments conducted. **Metadrasi's update on Lesvos incident** Metadrasi provided an update on the tragic incident of the death of an Afghan unaccpomanied child in Moria. The guardian of the child was informed by the authorities on the incident and she arrived in the Safe Area were the incident took place the same day at night. The guardian is in close contact with all state authorities involved by taking the necessary follow up actions. **Update on Samos by UNHCR Field Office** In Vathy RIC more than 250 unaccompanied and separated children are residing. The unaccompanied children are living in Level 2 (the designated area) but also in the wide area of Vathy RIC even in tends in the extended and the upper areas of the RIC in the forest among the general population. In Level 2 the children are living inside the containers without matresses, while 16 unaccompanied girls are residing in a container infront of the Police in the registration area with no access to WASH facilities and sleeping in shifts due to lack of capacity. On a positive note, on the 5th September the hospital committee on age assessment has been established for prioritising cases of children with family reunion cases under Dublin.	

▪ **Guardianship - by MoL & Metadrasi**	MoL informed the CP actors on the amendment of the Law on Guardianship (L. 4554/2018) which will enter into force on 1st March 2020. MoL informed the CPWG that the plan on the exit from the IOM Hotels is behind schedule – MoL will submit a request to extend the initial agreement and according to the new plan the exit from the IOM Hotels will be completed by the end of the December 2019 and not at the end of October 2019 as per the inititial plan. In July, UNHCR met with the Minister of Labor, Mrs Domna Michailidou – during the meeting the extention of the tripartite agreement was also discussed. UNHCR expressed its concerns in terms of the limited coordination and several operational issues related to the recruitement of the professional guardians and the need of a long term national strategic planning for child protection (incuding the local children) with a specific chapter on UAC which will take also into consideration the particularities of the current situation (alternative care solutions, homeless unaccompanied children, cases of unaccompanied children with family reunion procedures under Dublin). UNHCR aknowledges the efforts of MoL although the draft of national strategic plan on child protection should reflect the needs in the field. The Director of Metadrasi, Mrs Pappa, joined the CPsWG and provided feedback on progress on guardianship highlighting also the challenges so far.	• **Action points:** **N/A**
▪ **Dubs' project & beyond – by UNHCR**	The procedures for the relocation of **119 unaccompanied boys and girls** to the United Kingdom under the Dubs' scheme were finalized from the Greek side. EKKA, UNHCR and IOM held the last BID panel for the selection of eligible vulnerable UAC in the end of July and UNHCR has submitted the last cases to the UK Home office in the fist week of August. Since the beginning of the programme in 2017, **75 children have departed** following review by EKKA, UNHCR and IOM. Similar solidarity measures to relocate unaccompanied children to European states are needed. UNHCR will continue to advocate and to further discuss for the possibility of a new DUBS scheme or to propose relocation mechanisms to other counties in Europe with specific safeguards in place.	• **Action points:** **N/A**
AOB	Next CPsWG will be dedicated to the findings of the GAS Dublin Unit on the BIA tool for Dublin cases and the Family Reunion procedures in Greece.	**Action points:** **N/A**